

Lindsay Mize

From: Lindsay Mize
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 11:40 AM
Subject: New wave of fiction in Egypt bypasses politics

Egypt E-Alert

New wave of fiction in Egypt bypasses politics
Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Egypt is experiencing an unprecedented fiction explosion from a new generation of authors who use a more accessible form of Arabic, which moves beyond the normal political dialogue, and is full of colloquial phrases and pop-culture references.

"We are closer to everyday issues," said Abu Golayyel. "Our works have dropped dealing with the big issues and shaken off the burden of attempting to write prose for posterity."

The fiction renaissance has fueled - and been fueled by - a spread of "Borders" - style bookstores, complete with cafes and reading areas, and of new prestigious Arab literary prizes.

Recent success opened the floodgates for fiction, said Hind Wassef, a co-founder of Diwan, a chain of American-style bookshops. "It is a fiction market," she said, "And we go out of our way to stock an excellent collection of fiction. It is what sells."

Many of those involved in the new wave hope that it will have a social impact.

"While not political, the intellectual stimulation created by all this fiction will one day bring about reform and help contain the dangers of religious extremism and sectarianism," said Mohammed Hashem, founder of Dar Merit, publisher of "Being Abbas al-Abd" and many of the more experimental new works.

To read the full article, please click [here](#).

For more information, please contact Lindsay Mize at 202-777-3540 or lmize@clsdc.com.

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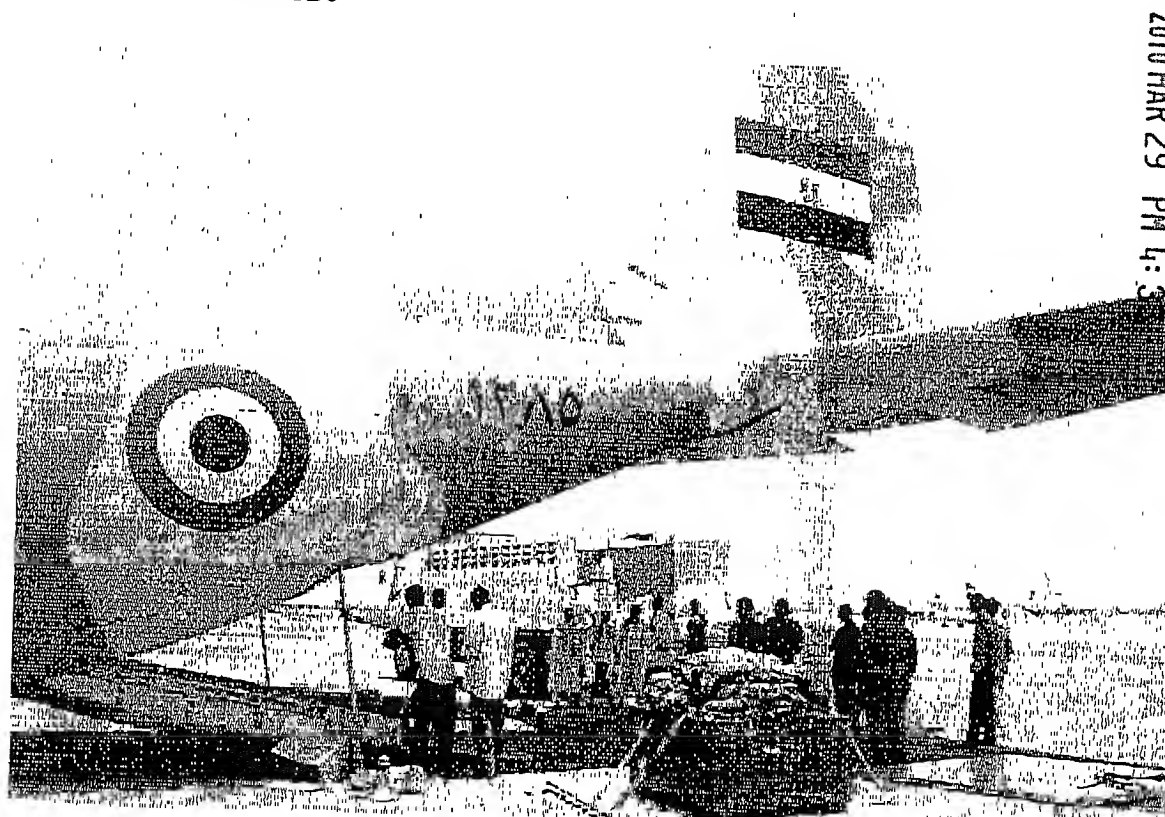
Lindsay Mize

From: Egyptian Press & Information Office [100facts@modernegypt.info]
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 2:15 PM
To: Egypt
Subject: Egypt is the 5th largest contributor to UN peacekeeping missions around the world.

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100 Facts About Egypt N° 51

Egypt is the 5th largest contributor to UN peacekeeping missions around the world.



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- Egypt's contribution has increased significantly in the past year, moving up from the 12th spot in February 2009 to the 5th in November 2009.
- Today, Egypt participates in 10 UN peacekeeping missions: 7 in Africa, 2 in Asia and 1 in Latin America.
- Egypt has deployed more than 5,000 peacekeepers, including military personnel, engineers and paratroopers.
- In keeping with its commitment to bring peace and stability to Sudan, Egypt has sent more than 3,500 peacekeepers to Sudan including 2,500 to Darfur.
- Egypt has also deployed more than 1,000 peacekeepers to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the world's biggest UN peacekeeping operation, and has sent an interior ministry police unit whose mission is to protect individuals and employees of the United Nations.

Source: United Nations Peacekeeping



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